

March 1, 2012

Dear Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski and members of the Labor Committee,

**S.B. 150 AN ACT CONCERNING FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE BENEFITS  
FOR CERTAIN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES.**

My name is Gayle Furman and I am a Paraprofessional at Jack Jackter Intermediate School in Colchester, CT. and the Vice President of AFT-CT Local 3279. I am writing in support of the above legislation.

The current hours needed to work to be eligible for FMLA is 1,250 per year. Most of our Paraprofessionals at JJIS work just under that amount per year. Paraprofessionals choose this position for many reasons.

- The desire to help disadvantaged children succeed in their school environment
- Many are the main caregivers for their families including their children and their parents.
- Many paraprofessionals carry the families Medical Insurance.

If an extended medical emergency impacts one of us or our family, we would most likely be the one to care for them. It would be devastating to lose our jobs and not have the income or insurance to maintain our financial needs.

Thank you for your time. Please consider this important legislation for the children we service and the families we care for.



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